

What is claimed is:

1. A telephone support method comprising:

5 a support reception step issuing a reception number in response to an application for support from a user terminal and notifying the user terminal of the reception number and a guidance for a call connection;

10 a wait state management step notifying the user terminal of wait information indicating a current wait state and of wait time points increased as a wait time elapses until a support terminal becomes available for response;

15 a support start step connecting to an extension a call connection held at the support terminal when the support terminal becomes available for response; and

a support end step adding the wait time points to past wait time points and storing the sum.

20

2. The telephone support method according to claim 1, wherein

25 the support reception step includes, if the user is a registered member based on the application for support, issuing a reception number and notifying the user terminal of the reception number and the guidance for call connection, and, if the

user is not a registered member, notifying the user terminal of a guide to admission.

3. The telephone support method according to claim 1, wherein

5       the support reception step includes notifying, as the guidance for the call connection, the user terminal of a telephone number for the standard telephone and an IP address for an IP telephone of a support site.

10

4. The telephone support method according to claim 1, wherein

          the wait state management step includes notifying the user terminal of a current wait order  
15 or of wait time that remains before the start of support.

5. The telephone support method according to claim 1, wherein

20       the support start step includes, when the support terminal becomes available for response, sending selection information on a plurality of support terminals to the user terminal and  
          connecting to an extension the call connection held  
25 at a support site specified by a selection response from the user terminal.

6. The telephone support method according to claim 5, wherein

the support start step includes, when the support terminal becomes available for response, sending to the user terminal, for selection, selection information including names, years of experience and comments of supporters at a plurality of support terminals.

7. The telephone support method according to claim 1, further comprising;

a reconnection management step, when the call connection with the user terminal held in a wait state is disconnected, continuing to notify the user terminal, for display, of wait information indicating the current wait state and wait time points increased as the wait time elapses, and requesting the user terminal to make a call reconnection at the timing immediately before start of support.

8. The telephone support method according to claim 7, wherein

the reconnection management step includes, when a call reconnection by telephone is not yet made at the support start time after requesting the user terminal to make the call reconnection,

canceling the wait state when the elapsed time from the support start time exceeds a predefined time period.

5 9. The telephone support method according to claim 7, wherein

the support reception step includes:

verifying whether the user is a registered member or not by searching a member database with  
10 user information from the application for support;  
and

if the user is a registered member, issuing a reception number and notifying the user of the reception number and a guidance for a call  
15 connection, and, if the user is not a registered member, notifying the user of a guide to admission.

10. The telephone support method according to claim 7, wherein

20 the support reception step includes notifying, as the guidance for the call connection, the user terminal of a telephone number for the standard telephone and an IP address for an IP telephone of a support site.

25

11. The telephone support method according to claim 7, wherein

the wait state management step includes notifying the user terminal of a current wait order or of a wait time that remains before the start of support.

5

12. The telephone support method according to claim 7, wherein

the support start step includes, when the support terminal becomes available for response, sending selection information on a plurality of support terminals to the user terminal and connecting to an extension the call connection held at a support site specified by a selection response from the user terminal.

15

13. The telephone support method according to claim 12, wherein

the support start step includes, when the support terminal becomes available for response, sending to the user terminal, for selection, selection information including names, years of experience and comments of supporters at a plurality of support terminals.

25 14. A computer-readable storage medium which store a program allowing a computer to execute:

a support reception step issuing a reception

number in response to an application for support from a user terminal and notifying the user terminal of the reception number and a guidance for a call connection;

5           a wait state management step notifying the user terminal of wait information indicating a current wait state and of wait time points increased as a wait time elapses until a support terminal becomes available for response;

10           a support start step connecting to an extension a call connection held at the support terminal when the support terminal becomes available for response; and

            a support end step adding the wait time points  
15 to past wait time points and storing the sum.

15. The storage medium according to claim 14, further comprising;

            a reconnection management step, when the call  
20 connection with the user terminal held in a wait state is disconnected, continuing to notify the user terminal, for display, of wait information indicating the current wait state and wait time points increased as the wait time elapses, and  
25 requesting the user terminal to make a call reconnection at the timing immediately before start of support.

16. The storage medium according to claim 15,  
wherein

the reconnection management step includes,  
5 when a call reconnection by telephone is not yet  
made at the support start time after requesting the  
user terminal to make the call reconnection,  
canceling the wait state when the elapsed time from  
the support start time exceeds a predefined time  
10 period.

17. A telephone support apparatus comprising:

a support reception unit issuing a reception  
number in response to an application for support  
15 from a user terminal and notifying the user terminal  
of the reception number and a guidance for a call  
connection;

a wait state management unit notifying the user  
terminal of wait information indicating a current  
20 wait state and of wait time points increased as a  
wait time elapses until a support terminal becomes  
available for response;

a support start unit connecting to an extension  
a call connection held at the support terminal when  
25 the support terminal becomes available for  
response; and

a support end unit adding the wait time points

to past wait time points and storing the sum.

18. The telephone support apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising;

5        a reconnection management unit, when the call connection with the user terminal held in a wait state is disconnected, continuing to notify the user terminal, for display, of wait information indicating the current wait state and wait time  
10 points increased as the wait time elapses, and requesting the user terminal to make a call reconnection at the timing immediately before start of support.

15 19. The telephone support apparatus according to claim 18, wherein

      the reconnection management unit, when a call reconnection by telephone is not yet made at the support start time after requesting the user  
20 terminal to make the call reconnection, cancels the wait state when the elapsed time from the support start time exceeds a predefined time period.